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COUNTRY Soviet Zone of Germany

REPORT [REDACTED]

TOPIC 5th Volkspolizei Bereitschaft of Land Thuringia in Erfurt

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EVALUATION [REDACTED]

DATE OF CONT [REDACTED]

DATE OBTAINED [REDACTED]

REFERENCES [REDACTED]

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) [REDACTED]

REMARKS [REDACTED]

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1. A man who had served with the 5th Volkspolizei (VP) Bereitschaft prior to May 1950 stated that the unit is quartered in the old German barracks in Erfurt Petersburg (M 51/J 36), and that it has a strength of about 70 officers and 1,100 police.
2. The unit is organized into a headquarters, three Kommandos and one Sonderkommando.
3. Officers include: Polizeirat Kurt Hellwig, about 25 years old and CO of the Bereitschaft; Polizeirat Kuehl, (fnu), who is the Polithkultur (PK) Leiter; Oberkommissar Klette, (fnu), one Einsatzleiter, operations officer, and Oberkommissar Becker, (fnu), who is director of training.
4. The Bereitschaft is equipped with one heavy mortar, nine Maxim and model-08 heavy machine guns, 18 model-34 light machine guns, 600 model-98k carbines, and an unknown number of assault rifles, submachine guns, and model-08 and model 38 pistols. Motor vehicles included four ZIS and Horch trucks, seven passenger cars, and one motorcycle.

[REDACTED] Comment : Appears elsewhere as Helbing.
Both may be a corruption of Helbig.

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5. Field training at the old Bindersleben airfield, near Erfurt, included firing practice, guard duty in the field, regimental march-security, and penetration of enemy positions. Political indoctrination, arithmetic and languages are included in the courses. German and Russian are taught, but Chinese is included as an optional language. The Sonderkommando is trained in the use of mortars.
6. Ninety percent of the Bereitschaft belonged to the unit SED group, with Polizeirat Schueffler, (fnu) as chairman and Oberkommissar Wiegand, (fnu), as his assistant. Seventy-five percent belonged to the unit FDJ group, headed by Kommissar Castella, (fnu).

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